

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 1957

In the history of the Worcester Locomotive Society the 11<sup>th</sup> August 1957 was a pivotal moment being the date that its forerunner the Ian Allan Locospotters Club Gloucestershire Group (Worcester Branch), organised its first visit to locomotive sheds. The tour took in some of the depots in the West Midlands. The inspiration for the whole project that later evolved into the Worcester Locomotive Society (WLS) was Alan Hodges of Malvern. Alan suggested to Peter Sharpe (who was the Secretary of the Gloucestershire Group of the Ian Allan Locospotters Club) the formation of a Worcester Branch of the Gloucestershire Group of the Ian Allan Locospotters Club, and from this came the WLS.

The letter below is the earliest known item of correspondence and is one of many donated by Gerald Wadley:

IAN ALLAN LOCOSPOTTERS CLUB

66, Lower Chase  
Road, Malvern.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE GROUP

(WORCESTER BRANCH)

Date as postmark.

Dear Spotter,

The first trip run by the above group of the I.A.L.S.C. will take place on SUNDAY, AUGUST 11th and will take the form of a visit to motive power depots in the Birmingham/Wolverhampton areas. The following are the details:-

Dep.Gt.Western Hotel (outside Worcester Shrub Hill station) 10.00 a.m. Foregate Street 10.05 a.m. Proceed to 21B (Bourneville), 84E (Tyosley), 21A (Saltley), 3D (Aston), 1E (Monument Lane), 3A (Bescot Junction), 3C (Walsall), 84A (Stafford Road), 84B (Oxley), 3B (Bushbury), 84F (Stourbridge), 85D (Kiddermminster). (It is anticipated that 21A will be closed for re-building and visits to all depots are subject to permits being made available) Fare (all classes) 7/6d. It is hoped that the coach will return to Worcester between 7-8 6&7

2 p.m.  
Malvern members travel to Worcester by 9-17 a.m. train.  
Evesham & Pershore members by 8-47 & 9-5 a.m. respectively.  
Droitwich & Bromsgrove picked up on route. (Make own arrangements for return.) Stourbridge & Kiddermminster travel in by 8-55 & 9-8 a.m. respectively & alight at home town on return.

A deposit of 2/6d. must be paid when booking and the balance must reach me by first post on the 9th August. If more than 35 and not less than 70 applications are received, a relief trip will be arranged for Sunday, August 25th.

TEAR OFF HERE!!!

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to be included in the B'HAM/WOLVERHAMPTON trip on the 11th August and enclose 2/6d. in respect of the deposit. I understand that my participation herein is absolutely & entirely at my own risk. I wish to join the party at (If joining at Foregate Street, say so!!!!!!)

Signed.....

Remit to A.I.H.Hodges, 66, Lower Chase Road, Malvern, enclosing the above form. DON'T FORGET YOUR S.A.E.

The coach departed from Worcester Shrub Hill at a leisurely 10.45am. First stop was Bournville where Gerald's notebooks record that he saw (most non-cops were not listed in his books):

44575	58167	75057	76086	44575	45682	92104
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Next on the itinerary was Tyseley's large shed

4978	5205	9432	4170	4120	7438	W79090
13026	2259	9435	9498	9608	3749	5028

Aston

40206	44872	49275	12089	45349	48154	42958	42425
45413	45401	58288	42853	42627	42118	46492	78055
42976	42616	M79680	M79147	M79667	45659	46110	

Monument Lane

45253	46490	44506	45060	42615	42930	43187	44683
46421	58124	58178	41090	45073	40933	42962	41165

Wolverhampton Stafford Road

8734	6919	6995	4942	4158	6001	6005	6006
6020							

On walk to Oxley:           45722       45244

Oxley

4708	9739	8428	13191	13937	13038	13039	73034
7759	9408	5684	9752	9768	8449	6640	6878
5362	3732						

Bushbury

48905	42360	44488	12091	45054	41168	49044	45395
12088	58204	49247	44484	49037	48715	42963	73133
47398	49045	42957	45289	45343	42949	42429	73133
90719	45555	45590	45617	45629	45647	45672	45788
45722	45737						

Stourbridge

3667	7430	7441	7447	1459	9630	2840	7806
4958	7806	W17W	W22W				

It was advertised also to visit Saltley, Bescot and Kidderminster but it did not. It was noted that Saltley might be closed for rebuilding. The fare was 7s 6d.

Source: Gerald Wadley, Ian Allan Locolog Book No.1 and Railway Times No.6

A.C. Smith, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014, updated 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021.